



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/615,473	07/13/2000	Marcus Escobosa	81230.56US1	4894
34018	7590	03/16/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP			SHIMIZU, MATSUICHIRO	
77 WEST WACKER DRIVE			ART UNIT	
SUITE 2500			PAPER NUMBER	
CHICAGO, IL 60601-1732			2635	

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/615,473	Applicant(s) ESCOBOSA ET AL.	
	Examiner Matsuichiro Shimizu	Art Unit 2635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 54-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 54-62, 64-72 and 74-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

The examiner acknowledges currently amended claims 54-59, 61-61,70—72 and 80.

Response to Arguments

Examiner withdraws rejection of claims 54-55,57-59, 62, 66, 71-72 and 76 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 in view of applicant's argument (lines 11-19, page 9) filed on 11/29/04.

Regarding applicant's argument (line 12, page 10 to line3, page 11; lines 9-14, page 12), O'Donnell teaches, in the art of remote control entertainment electronic devices, a user may interact with the remote control to determine by experimentation which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate for commanding operations (Figs. 1, handheld remote control 12, appliance selection keys 10,11, etc.; Fig. 3, is control signal for this appliance 19; col. 3, lines 7-14 and lines 36-50, checking or testing of appliance type associated home entertainment, VCR, DVD, audio system, TV exclusive of other type associated with oven or any of a wide variety of appliances) wherein "a plurality of command sets that have been identified as being candidates for commanding operations of the specified type and brand of consumer electronic device" in claim 54 is suggested by the prior art of O'Donnell. Furthermore, Kemink teaches the specified type and brand of consumer electronic device (lines 18-29, page 1, type and brand; lines 16-20, page 6, downloading of sets of GUI code set and sequence command set associated with the infrared transmitter).

Regarding applicant's argument (line 20, page 9 to line11, page 10; lines 1-10, page 14), the examiner maintains *35 U.S.C. 103(a)* rejection that since Kemink and

Art Unit: 2635

O'Donnell disclose remote control system, they are combinable to teach limitations in the claims 54-62, 64-72 and 74-80.

Regarding applicant's argument (line 3-7, page 15), Foster teaches a speaker assignments of function codes (Fig. 9, speaker assignment associated with vol- and vol+ keys) to the key layout.

Therefore, rejection of claims 54-62, 64-72 and 74-80 follows:

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 54-56, 58-62 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kemink (WO0017738) in view of O'Donnell et al. (6,549,143).

Regarding claim 54, Kemink teaches a method for selecting function codes for use in a remote control, comprising:

receiving user input at a computer that functions to specify a type of a consumer electronic device (lines 10–20, page 6, a list of appliances associated with graphic interface code to be selected or a plurality of gui corresponding to the selected appliance) and a brand (lines 10–15, page 6, graphic display of lists associated with model) of the consumer electronic device;

using the user input at the computer to select a plurality of function code sets that have been identified as being candidates for commanding operations of the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of the consumer electronic device; and

causing at least a subset of each of the; plurality of selected function code sets to be downloaded (lines 10–20, page 6, download the selected graphic interface code to the control device 100) from the computer into the remote control whereby a user may interact with the remote control to choose option which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate for commanding operations of the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of the consumer electronic device (lines 18–22, page 7, user select the option). But Kemink does not teach a user may interact with the remote control to determine by experimentation which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate for commanding operations.

However, O'Donnell teaches, in the art of remote control entertainment electronic devices, a user may interact with the remote control to determine by experimentation which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate for commanding operations (Figs. 1, handheld remote control 12, appliance selection keys 10,11, etc.; Fig. 3, is control signal for this appliance 19 ?; col. 3, lines 7–14 and lines 36–50, checking or testing of appliance type associated home entertainment, VCR,

DVD, audio system, TV exclusive of other type associated with oven or any of a wide variety of appliances) for the purpose of providing operable device code. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include a user may interact with the remote control to determine by experimentation which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate in the device of Kemink because Kemink suggests choosing option which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate and O'Donnell teaches a user may interact with the remote control to determine by experimentation which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate for commanding operations for the purpose of providing operable device code.

Regarding claim 55, Kemink teaches the method as recited in claim 54, comprising displaying to the user a list (lines 10–20, page 6, a list of appliances associated with graphic interface code to be selected or a plurality of gui corresponding to the selected appliance) comprising a plurality of consumer electronic device types and the user selecting one of the plurality of consumer electronic device types from the list comprises the user input that functions to specify the type of the consumer electronic device (lines 10–20, page 6, a list of appliances associated with user's profile; lines 23–31, page 7, age of user).

Regarding claim 56, Kemink teaches the method as recited in claim 54, comprising displaying to the user a list (lines 10–20, page 6, a list of appliances associated with graphic interface code to be selected or a plurality of gui corresponding to the selected appliance) comprising a plurality of consumer electronic device brands and the user selecting one of the plurality of consumer electronic device brands from the list comprises the user input that functions to specify the brand of the

Art Unit: 2635

consumer electronic device (lines 10–20, page 6, a list of appliances associated with user's profile).

Regarding claim 58, Kemink in view of Hayes teaches the method as recited in claim 54, comprising arranging the downloaded plurality of function code sets such that the plurality of function code sets will be tested in an order according to their popularity (lines 1–3, page 6, popularity associated with device control profile–age of user) when the user interacts with the remote control to determine by experimentation which one of the plurality of function code sets is appropriate for commanding operations of the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand (Kemink–lines 10–15, page 6, graphic display of lists associated with model) of the consumer electronic device (Hayes–col. 4, lines 33–40, experiment with the various device codes and selection of operable device code).

Regarding claim 59, Kemink the method as recited in claim 54, comprising using the one of the plurality of function code sets that is appropriate for commanding operations of the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of the consumer electronic device to identify a set of extended function codes (lines 9–12, page 8, choose to combine the function associated with combining icons to expand function codes) for use in commanding extended operations of the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of the consumer electronic device (Kemink–lines 10–15, page 6, graphic display of lists associated with model).

Regarding claim 60, Kemink the method as recited in claim 54, wherein the user input is received at the computer via an Internet connection (lines 28–31, page 4,

Web associated with internet based service; lines 3–5, page 6, computer associated with the internet access device 210).

Regarding claim 61, Kemink the method as recited in claim 54, wherein the plurality of function code sets are downloaded from the computer directly into the remote control (Fig. 2, computer 210 to remote controller 100).

Regarding claim 62, Kemink the method as recited in claim 54, comprising displaying to the user a key layout for the remote control and a list of functions from the function code set appropriate for commanding operations of the specified type (lines 25–27, device for the age of user) of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of the consumer electronic device (lines 13–15, page 6, special model number) and accepting user input to assign functions from the list of functions to the key layout, assignments of functions to the key layout being downloadable from the computer to the remote control (lines 29–33, page 4, downloaded GUI is configurable by dragging icons over the screen) to thereby configure the remote control to command operations of the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of consumer electronic device.

Regarding claim 70, Kemink the method as recited in claim 54, wherein the plurality of function code sets each comprise codes for driving an IR emitting diode of the remote control (lines 19–20, page 6, IR transmitter 100).

Claims 57, 64–69, 71–80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kemink (WO0017738) in view of O'Donnell as applied to claim 62 above, and further in view of Foster (6,211,870).

Regarding claims 57, 64–69, 71, 77 Kemink teaches the method as recited in claim 62, comprising presenting a graphical user interface (lines 10–20, page 6, GUI);

the specified type of the consumer electronic device and the specified brand of the consumer electronic device (lines 13–15, page 6, special model number). But Kemink in view of O'Donnell does not teach a graphical user interface having drag and drop capabilities for use in assigning functions from the list of functions to the key layout; a speaker assignments of function codes to the key layout; a memory card assignments of functions to the key layout; keys displayable in a display of the remote control; a power operation.

However, Foster teaches, in the art of graphic user interface system, a graphical user interface having drag and drop capabilities for use in assigning functions from the list of functions to the key layout (Fig. 11, drag and drop from the list 114); a speaker assignments of function codes to the key layout (Fig. 9, speaker assignment associated with vol– and vol+ keys); keys displayable in a display of the remote control (Fig. 9, display area 721); a power operation (Fig. 9, power button on display 721); a memory card assignments of functions to the key layout for the purpose of providing enhanced user–friendly system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include a graphical user interface having drag and drop capabilities for use in assigning functions from the list of functions to the key layout; a speaker assignments of function codes to the key layout; keys displayable in a display of the remote control; a power operation; and a memory card assignments of functions to the key layout in the device of Kemink because Kemink suggests a graphical user interface and Foster teaches a graphical user interface having drag and drop capabilities for use in assigning functions from the list of functions to the key layout; a speaker assignments of function codes to the key layout; keys displayable in a display of the remote control;

Art Unit: 2635

a power operation; and a memory card assignments of functions to the key layout for the purpose of providing user-friendly system.

All subject matters in claim 71 are disclosed in claims 54-56, 60 and 62-63 therefore rejection of the subject matters expressed in claim 71 are met by references and associated arguments applied to rejection of claims 54-56, 60 and 62-63.

All subject matters in claims 72-76 and 78-80 are disclosed in claims 58, 60, 64-66 and 68-70 therefore rejection of the subject matters expressed in claims 72-76 and 78-80 are met by references and associated arguments applied to rejection of claims 58, 60, 64-66 and 68-70.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 63 and 73 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 63 and 73, the prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest displaying an amount of memory needed in the remote control to download from the computer to the remote control assignments of functions to the key layout.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final act

Art Unit: 2635

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matsuichiro Shimizu whose telephone number is (571-272-3066). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik, can be reached on (571-272-3068). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-305-3988).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-8576).

Matsuichiro Shimizu

March 9, 2005



MICHAEL HORABIK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000

